



3731
BOX NON-FEE
AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M.R. Hansen et al. Attorney Docket No.: WEYE115753
Application No.: 09/639,658 Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: August 15, 2000 Examiner: T. Nguyen
Title: METHOD OF BINDING PARTICLES TO BINDER TREATED FIBERS

RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 9, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A. Response Transmittal

Transmitted herewith is a response in the above-identified application. No additional claim fee is required, as shown below.

COMPUTATION OF FEE FOR CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For		Present Extra		Rate		Additional Fee
Total Claims	23	-	23	=	0	x	18	=	0
Independent Claims	1	-	1	=	0	x	84	=	0
TOTAL									\$0

B. Additional Fee Charges or Credit for Overpayment

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1740. This authorization also hereby includes a request

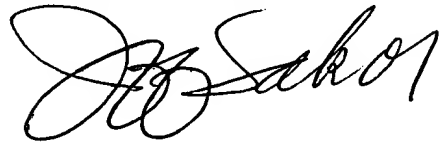
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for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: July 9, 2002

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Application No.: 09/639,658

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 15, 2000

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Title: METHOD OF BINDING PARTICLES TO BINDER TREATED FIBERS

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION MAILED APRIL 10, 2002

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 9, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Responsive to the Examiner's Action mailed April 10, 2002, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks that follow.

REMARKS

Claims 55-75 are pending and active in the subject application and stand rejected over U.S. Patent No. 4,813,948, to Insley; 4,755,178, to Insley; and 5,149,335, to Kellenberger. For the following reasons, applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner asserts that Claims 55-75 are anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over the '948 Insley patent.

Applicants have previously argued that Insley '948 fails to teach the step of "binding the superabsorbent particles to the binder-containing cellulose fiber." See pages 5-6 of the submission in a request for continued examination filed January 25, 2002. The outstanding Examiner's Action cites Column 3, lines 45-50, of the '948 Insley patent for disclosing the use of various fibers, including wood pulp and staple fibers, both of which are asserted by the Examiner as containing cellulose fibers.

Column 3, lines 45-50, of Insley '948 are reproduced below:

The present invention further provides a nonwoven web comprising carrier fibers i.e., blown fibers, preferably melt blown microfibers, air laid staple fibers, or

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